

**Amendments to the Claims**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and Listings of Claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-5. (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a ~~synchronization information~~ time stamp generating unit adapted to generate ~~synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses~~ a time stamp, wherein said time stamp is used to synchronize frame synchronization signals generated in said image pickup apparatus and another image pickup apparatus;

a communication unit adapted to transmit said ~~synchronization information~~ time stamp generated by said time stamp generating unit to said another image pickup apparatus if said image pickup apparatus is set as a master camera, and receive said time stamp sent from said master camera if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera;

a frame synchronization signal generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal using ~~said synchronization information and time information for managing said time stamp generated by said time stamp generating unit and time information if said image pickup apparatus is set as said master camera, and generate a frame synchronization signal using said time stamp received by said communication unit and said time information if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera, wherein said time information is used to manage~~ a communication cycle of said communication unit; and

an image data generating unit adapted to generate image data using said frame synchronization signal generated by said frame synchronization signal generating unit.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said communication unit is adapted to transmit said ~~synchronization information~~ time stamp by an isochronous transfer if said image pickup apparatus is set as said master camera.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said communication unit conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

Claims 9-11. (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method of controlling an image pickup apparatus, comprising the steps of:

~~generating synchronization information for synchronizing a plurality of image pickup apparatuses~~ a time stamp, wherein said time stamp is used to synchronize frame synchronization signals generated in said image pickup apparatus and another image pickup apparatus;

~~transmitting said synchronization information to said plurality of image pickup apparatuses~~ time stamp generated in said time stamp generating step to said another image pickup apparatus using a communication unit if said image pickup apparatus is set as a master camera;

receiving said time stamp sent from said master camera using said communication unit if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera;

generating a frame synchronization signal using said time stamp generated in said time stamp generating step and time information if said image pickup apparatus is set as said master camera, wherein said time information is used to manage a communication cycle of said communication unit;

generating a frame synchronization signal using ~~said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit~~ said time stamp received in said receiving step and said time information if said image pickup apparatus is not set as said master camera; and

generating image data using said frame synchronization signal generated in said frame synchronization signal generating step.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein said ~~synchronization information~~ time stamp is transmitted by an isochronous transfer if said image pickup apparatus is set as said master camera.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein said communication unit conforms to ~~the~~ IEEE 1394-1995 standard or its extended standard.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (New): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image pickup apparatus sets itself as said master camera according to a command sent from an external control apparatus.

Claim 19 (New): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said time information is used to manage a communication cycle conformed to IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 20 (New): A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of setting said image pickup apparatus as said master camera according to a command sent from an external control apparatus.

Claim 21 (New): A method according to claim 12, wherein said time information is used to manage a communication cycle conformed to IEEE 1394-1995 standard.